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Second Chances

Michael Bingham
Utah State University

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The title of this exhibition is: "Second Chances"

The art in this show orbits around a common theme of:

"Making the most out of whatever Life gives you".

For decades I have been making art out of things that other people have abandoned, discarded, sent to thrift stores or sold in garage sales. Since my youth I have possessed the ability to find value, usefulness and even see beauty in objects that most others would label as trash.

This is both a curse and a blessing. It requires patience and space to save, appreciate and tolerate the chaos accompanying objects that have not yet found their useful place in the world. Most of the art, including my displays are constructed from unwanted underappreciated items. Many of which have been collected long ago, patiently waiting for their second chance.

At this time in history, the Corona 19 pandemic has certainly given us all massive challenges to overcome. With graduate art exhibitions all being canceled, I decided to "Make the most" of the situation and do what I always try to do when something unexpected, even devastating ruins well formed plans. Situations like the one we are currently in change everything, forcing us to act and think in new and different ways.

Rather than feel bad, get angry, sad, disappointed, or even give up, saying "oh well" there's nothing I could have done. Instead, I became grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate the same resourceful resilience that I utilize in the creation of art from unwanted materials.

I located and set up my graduate exhibition in an unused auto body repair space with a large garage door creating what I believe to be the world's first "Drive-In" Art exhibition. Families and groups who have been sequestered together were allowed to drive their vehicles one at a time right into the middle of the exhibition essentially becoming part of it. Once in the space and with face masks in place, attendees could get out and view the actual art. (this in contrast to the "virtual" Art exhibitions that are now becoming the norm.)

The time spent at Utah State creating this work has been a truly rewarding exploration of ideas and new methods. I feel an increased connection to the innovative souls who came before us. They are people who overcame nearly insurmountable obstacles to tame the wilderness and make the most out of what life gave them.